

January 8, 1965

Mrs. Lilian Butler  
Counselor, Science Department  
The Medical Bureau  
900 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Re: Dr. Thomas C. Nelson  
Your inquiry dated  
December 7, 1964.

Dear Mrs. Butler:

It is ten years since I have had any contact with Dr. Nelson, at which time he was a postdoctoral research fellow in my laboratory at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Nelson is a lively, engaging person, with an inquisitive mind, considerable flair for originality, and an aggressive and disciplined attitude towards scientific progress. During my acquaintanceship with him he was also, unfortunately, rather lazy and slovenly in his work habits, but it was also obvious that he was suffering from some rather specific emotional distractions, and it would be unreasonable and unfair to pin this stigma on him throughout his career. If I were to consider hiring him for a position here, I could do so without antagonism or depreciation, for I can visualize many situations for which he would be an excellent candidate. However, in view of his history of ten years ago, I would consider it especially important to inquire as to his more recent experience as to the positions he has held in the meantime.

Very truly yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

T. C. Nelson